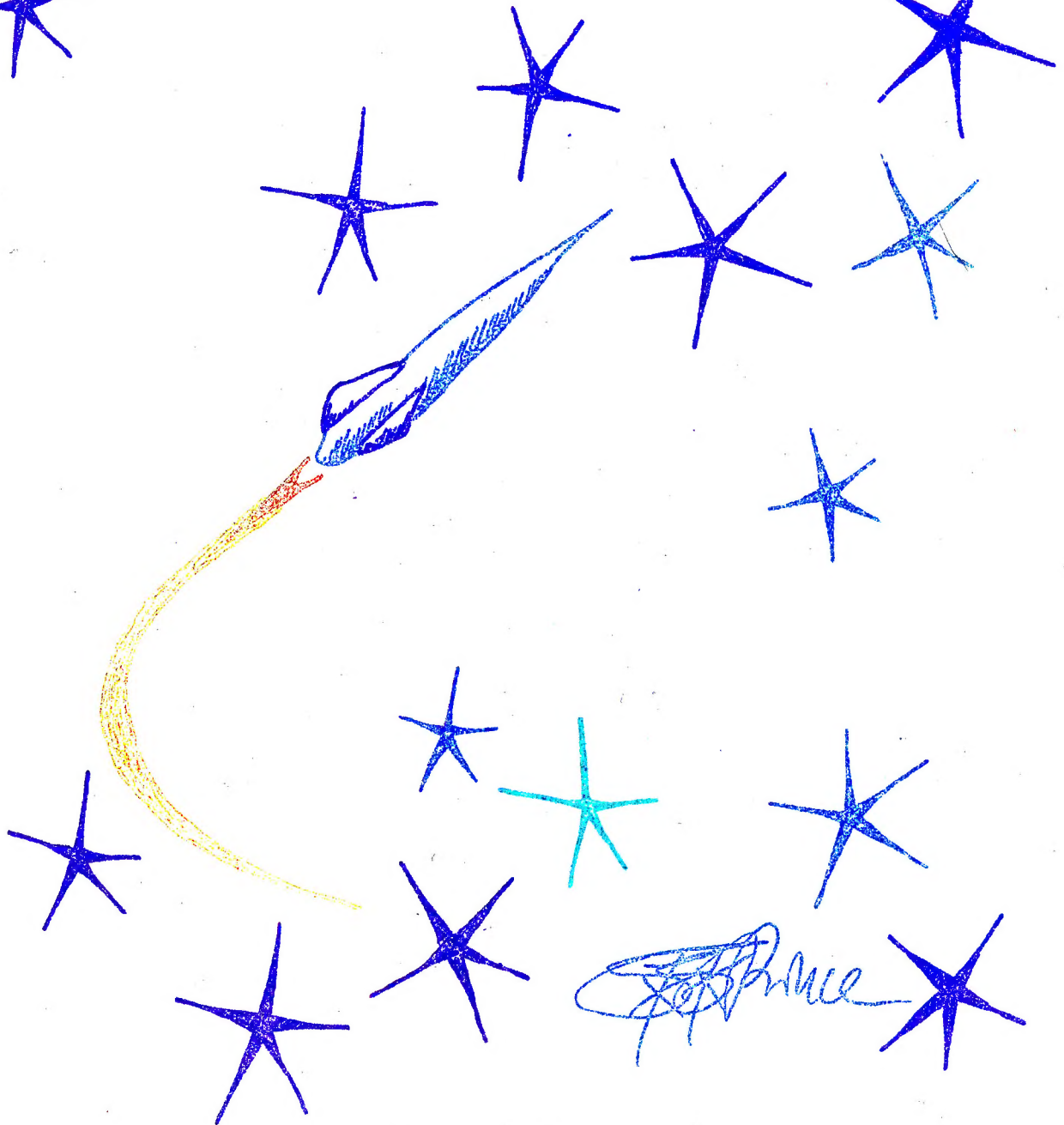


Dick

APA-TECH^{ie}



G. T. Buckfast.....Renee Sieber, 530 W. Walnut St.,
Kalamazoo, MI 49007, (616) 342-4967
Shalmaneezer.....Tullio Proni, same as above

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This incredibly bad TOC has been typed by Bill Colsher while drinking cheap Scotch in Renee's Room at Windy Con. So There!!!

THOSE WHO WILL BE DROPPED: Angel (but she promised to postmail), Tullio

THOSE WHO OWE MONEY: Clyde, Bentley

NEXT DEADLINE: December 1

YOUR ACCOUNT BEFORE POSTAGE IS\$

THOSE WHO OWE PAGES: Bentley, Alice, Gordon, Alex

An honorary copy goes to Sarah ~~for~~ her beautiful cover.

ROSTER

Mike Bentley, 514 W. High St., Urbana, IL, 61801, (217) 344-4718
Bill Colsher, 4328 Nutmeg Lane, Lisle, IL, 60532, (312) 964-1168
Alex Ellingsen, 530 W. Walnut St., Kalamazoo, MI, (616) 342-4967
Gordon Carb, 505 N. Rock Rd. #103, Wichita, KS, 67206
Valli Hoski, 621 Hull Terrace #1W, Evanston IL 60202 (312) 492-1358
Steve Johnson, 2428 Summit, Columbus, OH 43202, (614) 263-0884 or 263-1935

Clyde Jones, P.O. Box 1099, Waukegan, IL, 60085

Angel Insley,

Alice Insley, same as Bentley's

Tullio Proni, same as Alex

Greg Ruffa, 307 E. White St., #34, Champaign, IL, 61820, (217) 359-9544

Mike Sestak, 130 Surf Ct., #103, Houston, TX, 77058, (713) 333-4158

Renee Sieber, same as Alex

Dick Smith, 1719 Forest Cove, #103, Mt. Prospect, IL, 60056

Rod Smith, 922 Belvoir Dr., Frankfort, KY, 40601

Keith Thorne, same as Bentley's

MEMO FROM THE CHAIR

The last issue of Apa-Tech was collated at Bill Higgin's Berzerker, among the bodies and the hamburgers. We were waiting for Dick's stapler but we became bored and decided to finish the collation. But what would we use for Fasteners? In a true techie fashion we found a solution. Cable ties. Those of you at the party received the limited copies which will be worth practically nothing in a few years. Dick's contribution was not included in the table of contents since I got it at the party. The official page count for #2 is 47 pages.

This issue was gathered together at WindyCon, being held once again at the Arlington Park Hilton. Due to Tullio's tardiness most of the collators have left (only Tullio can touch the ditto machine.) Since I received most of the contributions here, I am forced to forego the use of Alex' editor and must do it manually! That accounts for the myriad of mistakes. My thanks to Bill, Dick, Rod, and Valli for waiting to collate. And thanks to Steve and Keith for sticking around to finally collate (you won't make me a liar, will you guys? And to Dave Powell, who will certainly help us with this thankless task.

A final note: keep New Years open for Isher Con II. Your invitation will arrive in the mail soon.

I'm really impressed with the length of people's zines. Keep up the good fanatic!

SOMETHING ELSE AGAIN

Number 2

SOMETHING ELSE AGAIN: A 'zine for APA-TECH and a few other places at my whim. Written and typed by Bill Colsher who resides at: 4328 Nutmeg Lane, Apt. 111 / Lisle, IL 60532 with his wife, computers, cats and still no printer.

Mailing Comments

Cover - Got a Crackle out of it. Let's see some more. My copy was a little on the faint side - I guess that's Renee's thermofax machine's fault.

555 Times - Congrats are in order for a job well-done on the first two mailings. However...why did you collate the second half of my copy upside-down? You should have yelled louder for a stapler too... we could have gone to get nine.

Transporter Talk - Yes, I too have had an occasional fantasy in which I spend a large portion of my life just barely missing fandom. As a matter of fact, I was raised in Cincinnati and somehow never saw a fanzine. I know now that at least one of the bookstores I frequented carried a number of local ones.

Then I went to Ohio State and never once in my three springs there heard the slightest mention of Maroon. There was an SF club. But like most such clubs it was made up of "eternal neo's", "pear-shaped fan", and the usual run of non-entities such clubs tend to attract. I guess the main problem was that it didn't even have two or three really active fans it takes to make for interesting activities. Oh well... I here now.

Singularity One - A private cover yet! Very nice though. Congrats on the job and engagement! Good luck and all that.

When you go to work for the Labs you'll find that there is something called CORNET. That translates into free phone calls to any other ATT location. I don't know what other techies are employed by some division of ATT but Michelle works for Western Electric so you'll be able to get in touch with Chicago free at least.

Good luck on finding a new (or) car too...you'll need it!

Your mud slipped - What problems did you have in mind that might be improved by a space-faring culture? (And retro-gress is a hideous word - don't ever use it in front of me again.)

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ONE

P2 - Lucky you with that Selectric...but as Alex will tell you, Selectrics are obsolete technology. Wait'll you see the printer I plan to buy as soon as I save up \$3,500.00. 45 cps, prop. spacing, 2 character sets without changing print elements and 120 x 48 points per inch plotting.

I wouldn't worry about the WindyCon art show - problems have a way of taking care of themselves. (Assuming that the basic organization is sound in the first place...)

"Taught you not to look for friends" ??? That happens to be the way you get friends ya know...you gotta look for them. (Though I'm sure that taking teachers is frowned upon everywhere.) Check my comments to Renee in Number 1...damnit...I'm tired of hearing that a place is "too big" or whatever to find friends.

"English Class" - Ahem...There is something that you techie types seem to always overlook when studying literature. That is the fact that the men and women who wrote the stories and plays you're reading were enormously better read than you (or you teacher) They really did put in all that symbolism and classical allusion and all that other stuff. And they did it intentionally.

Really...the benefits of a classical education can't be overemphasised and it really hurts me to see people like you and Angel and Linda (yes, and Mike and Alex) go through school without a sound grounding in literature...from Homer to Heinlein. I had to really fight to get what little OSU would allow me to take and I'm glad I did. Believe me, it's worth the effort to learn the classics...

Garb in, Garb Out - Welcome to the APA. Caught you note in one of the CBES's (Akron I think) about DGI finally going under. Too bad. I've got such a pretty cabinet sitting on the floor next to me. If you hear what they plan to do with DGI's stock let me know by phone I'M interested in a 64 char. TVC and some memory.

USIL - So...Renee got you to put something on paper (and a nice job too) (But shame on you for having typo's with a text editor!)

0140 - me too!!

OK...let's talk about CBES's...I have this DGI system sitting gathering dust right now. Adding memory is easy all the address and data lines can run right to S100 boards. A disk is a little more of a problem. (I'm assuming that you would rather have your system for yourself rather than tying it up on a phone line.) I think that an incoming phone number costs only about \$4.00 a month. I gotta do something with this stupid DGI anyway.

Re MICRONET - they've recently increased the on line storage time limit to 30 days. A recent announcement also mentions that soon they'll be selling software you can download onto your own system and then save in whatever manner you want. I've asked for author's information which may or may not make it into this zine.

In case anyone else is interested in CBES's here are some phone numbers. (you'll need a terminal and modem/coupler)

ABBS (the A seems to mean "APPLE II") - Akron Digital Group - (216)745-7855
 ABBS - Computer Lab - Memphis Tennessee - (901) 761-4743
 ABBS - ABBS Houston - (713) 977-7019
 ABBS - ABBS New York - (212) 448-6576
 ABBS - Personal Computers of Chicago - (312) 337-6631
 Forum 80 - (Runs on a TRS-80) - Chicago, IL - (312) 925-0259
 CBBS - San Diego Peoples Message Center - games too - (714) 449-5689

Most of these places also have lists of other ABBS's and CBBS's. If I can con Michelle into it we'll bring a terminal from Western Electric to NASFC and see who we can talk to.

TFTCS - Lease...here it is...those wall graphics I mentioned last ish come from a place called Environmental Graphics and they list for \$95.00 each. You can most likely get them on sale at your local wallpaper store if you go in at the right time of year.

Looking forward to getting something for nothing...

KEN - Cute.

Mu Beta - Looking forward to W.con B. see if you can do something about other cons sharing the hotel...

Re. Audio Disks - Think what you'll have to spend on amps and speakers to meet that kind of fidelity!

Indefinite Horizons - Read and enjoyed but not much to comment on.

T Q Singularity - very interesting. Can't really comment on it though.

Corona - Hey...tell me something more about TECO. We have it available on MICRONET. (Maybe you could swipe me a manual???)

Re your ct. to MB - Yes indeedy...what we have here is the difference between an academic computer user and someone who's spent some time in the "real" world. You quickly learn that the idea is to get a working program that actually does more or less what the user wants it to as quickly as possible.

Tell me about you SK Lisp...Do you own the copyright? I know somebody who'd love to help you market it if we got it up on, say, the TRS-80.

...And exactly where did you have in mind for those rotating lights?

(Hey Renee...is this a family APA?)

Re. job hunting...No doubt Western Electric or Bell Labs would love to have you add your DEC experience. Ask Michale about it sometime.

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THREE

END OF MAILING COMMENTS

Serious stuff now.

I hope everybody had a good time at the party at Bill's place. All these things first were planned for about 20 people and the total number was about twice that... we should have moved up to my place which is about twice as big as Bill's. I had a pretty good time, learned some things about a couple of people. Frankly though, I think it was too close to HAFU... I don't think I'll be ready to see all those people again so soon. (you'll know if I was ready by the time you read this.)

There's not too much different with my life since last ish. I'm still programming micros for a living. I just finished off two programs for the ARM computer. I hope they sell well. The 2 grand in advances really isn't enough for the pain-in-the-ass that the ARM machine is.

The other day someone asked me if I would be bringing my guitar to WackyCon. The answer was yes but... I'll try to explain the "yes but" now (in case any of you have been wondering about my sometimes peculiar behavior at cons.)

Guitar playing is one of the few things that I do well enough to be even marginally satisfied with. It's something that I spend perhaps more time on than I really should. That's because it's a source of great emotional satisfaction to me.

Playing for an audience is a lot like making love to all of those people at once... it requires a lot of energy and when it goes well it's completely self-contained... the audience gives back more than I put in and I can go all night without much strain.

If things don't go well I might not last two songs. It's very very painful to put out all that energy and just have it sucked up and not get anything back. When that happens all the old self-doubts come back in full force... "I LOOKED UP AND THOUGHT 'Is this really any good?' ... 'Is this even worth doing?' Eventually I recover and play again but knowing that doesn't help much when things go down the tubes.

Sooner or later I'm going to end up not playing at every con... I might not play at every con... at least in public. So much depends on how I feel about the con, the people there... now the service was at dinner... I said, it's a lot like making love... sometimes you just don't feel like it.

The rest of this cons is going to be something of an experiment. I'm going to close for now on "serious stuff" and not write anything else till HAFU. Then, I'm going to keep a minute by minute account of the con as a sort of "diary". Except that I'll be keeping the "Diary" on ditto masters. What you'll see when you turn this page may well be one of the strangest con reports you've ever seen. I've often wondered what other people are doing when you don't see them at cons... well, you're going to find out what I do (whether you're interested or not!).

Wednesday (about 7:15) - Made it at last. Both Michelle and I have had colds since last Thursday and as a result the trip from Chicago seemed awfully long. We're mostly recovered now... but it feels good to relax in the room.

Our room is very nice as hotel rooms go. We, like everyone else on this side of the building, have a view of both the river and the Riverfront Plaza and the "International Heritage Festival" which will soon fill it up. If all the rooms in this hotel are as large as this one it should make for some interesting parties. We'll see..

The Galt House has 25 floors! It may be hard to get to the parties. There are large areas in front of the elevators though, furnished with couches and chairs...good for hall parties.

The hotel has installed coin operated ice machines...BLASPHEMY!!! But we were warned in PR3. It's only 25¢ for a bucket full though. If you're only buying for your own use that's not bad. I can't imagine drinking a bucket's worth of iced drinks in one night. The con has promised a 24 hour ice house for those who need a bathtub full.

(About 10:00) - The omens bode well...Already there are three parties. And the con hasn't even started yet!! We've made token appearances at two but both Michelle and I are pretty tired. To bed...

Thursday (About 10:30) - Good morning. As soon as my hair dries We'll go down and get registered. The bucket of ice I bought last night and put in our cooler is still about 1/2 frozen. Not bad...

Just went down...Registration doesn't open 'til ONE. Shit. A bunch of people sitting around though. Already someone knows me and I have no idea at all who she is. I wish I could remember people's names better.

(About 1:00)- Just back from walking around town. We found several cheap places to eat for both breakfast and lunch. Still not sure about dinners though. The slaverring hordes have started to congregate around registration...we'll wait a while in the room and then go down to eat and register.

On the way out we saw Joan Henke-Woods; she won the FAAN artist award. Michael is bringing it back for her (of course). She says she's brought about 30 items for the art show. Maybe I'll finally buy something.

(About 2:50) = Back from lunch and registration. It's hot outside. Michelle thinks it's too cold in here. Saw Bill-L at Reg. So... lots of people here already. There's an official "filk" at midnight. We'll see...depends on if Fred actually comes to the con.

Lunch was at a place called The Farmer's Garden. Good and cheap. Unfortunately they're only open on weekdays and closed, of course, on Monday. Too bad.

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(About 3:45) - Cotts go down and get my personal check for the hotel bill approved. Michelle wants to go swimming. The pool will be open 'til 1:00 AM.

(about 4:00) - Check O.K., I'll practice for about half an hour, then go look around some more. I wonder if Fred is really coming?

(About 5:30) - met Marcie and some friends for a recharge in her room. (she's in with Bill Higgins, etc!) Looked over the Hukster room - some really nice stuff. Too bad I have so much money with me. Somebody asked my opinion on a brand of Guitar - the Grammer. Michelle is still out swimming.

Michelle is back, I've bought a second bucket of ice - it should last the night. I'm still a little down, I don't really know why. Probably a combination of just barely getting over a cold and this hideous zit on the end of my nose. Shit. Wonder when Renee and company will show up? There should be another batch of Chicago people coming in any time now. They were going to leave about 11:00 Chicago time.

(About 7:30) - We've seen Renee and Tullio in the Hukster Room and handed over their 100 batteries. Now we're about to go out to the place called "Kunz The Dutchman" for a steak or two. Michelle saw Neil and Susan earlier.

(About 10:30) - Back from dinner (very good) saw N & S again, Annie and Sherry downstairs. Wonder where Renee is? A short nap now and then we'll head out to 1833 for the "Thursday Night Meeting".

(Almost 11:00) - Just down from the "Thursday Night" - same people, same old stuff...Oh well. Gave Al his bottle o' Green Glop.

Midnight - and we turn into pumpkins...Met Linda Moss and wandered around a little...got some Coke in the Cincinnati party. To bed...

Friday Morning (About 9:45) - Now... some stuff I was too tired to type last night. Lessee...There really is a Fred Haskett...it's not a typo for our Fred. Shit. Nobody seems to know when he'll be back in the midwest. (Anokon maybe??) We're going to get a bunch of people together later and call him up. Linda has his address.

The Duntemanns are coming in this morning much to everyone's chagrin. Doug and Gretchen seemed rather piqued that Jeff called us rather than them to give the news that they had changed flights. Tuff. Everyone had planned on them being here last night.

* * *END OF THURSDAY STUFF* * *

(about 12:00) - Saw Jeff downstairs, then went to the Hukster room and picked up a copy of Joan's illustrated Ted Sturgeon story and Phylliss' new book. Saw the new Boris calendar too.

(About 1:15) - Back from lunch and a delicious MooseHead beer. Got a neat bumper sticker too which I gave to Renee. Saw Linda Moss in the Hukster room buying a couple of pipes and a bong. We're testing out the bong right now....ANNNNN!
Oh yeah... also bought a Xenolith 2.

Friday - (About 2:30 or so...the clock quit again) - Saw Dotti and got a copy of her 'zine "Family Relations" Disgustingly good...a JHW cover, a Clicksohn article...geez. I wish I was a girl. Gonna read it now...

Oh yeah...somewhere around 1:30 or so I took a bunch of pictures at the techie pool party.

Mitch Thornhill was busted for erratic driving and ... on the way down to the con. They took up a bail collection but he got off (out) on a recognisance (sp?) bond apparently. So Rick is giving back all the money.

(About 6:15) - We went down to the Ethnic dealy in the square and had some Japanese stuff. Not as good as I remembered from Cincinnati but it filled the tummy. Now I am really and truly going to take a nap (MNN and a shower) and so get my body ready to party tonight.

(about 7:45) - One really nice thing about this hotel - they give you a lot of washcloths. This nap idea isn't really working out too well. I keep thinking of things I want to do.

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SPECIAL NOTE
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There's lot's of stuff that isn't really making it into this 'zine...mostly because I'm constantly forgetting about things I've done. For example, Donna gave me a tape to make another copy of Rocky Horror and a couple of other songs she likes. It's turning out to be rather difficult to remember all I do and then get it into a consise form that will make sense to anybody but me. Oh well.

ONWARD ----+

v
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(About 8:45) - I just took a long and very relaxing bath and read Xenolith 2. Someday I'll put out a zine of my very own. My current excuse is the lack of an electric typewriter/printer and text-editor (you see, I have this thing about typo's...I make a lot of them.) Maybe I ought to get the material together and then go visit Kazoo for a weekend to typeset on Alex's equipment. (What kind of editor do you have fella?)

(About 10:00) - Dick Smith is getting his bottle of Green Glop--- paying with a check...Oh well. (Sorry, Bill... Dick) (All right... I'll forgive you this time.)

(Around Midnight) - Well...we've been from 20 all the way down. Ther've been a lot of parties. Smoking with neal, susan, etc. Blog with Mpls in '73...various soda and such around various places. (I wonder what ah...happened to all the techies?)

Around 9:30 or so we had a slab of ribs down at the ethnic show. They were quite tasty and I think we'll have them for lunch tomorrow. Oh...yeah...the techies went over to the sandwich place in antlers and all ordered Moosehead bear! (Food too I guess) No doubt it was quite a show.

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SEVEN

Saturday - (About 10:30) - Gee...haven't been party hopping in a long long time. That was fun. Today we're actually going to go to some programming. There are a couple of panels on immortality research and also an Heroic Fantasy panel with Janet E. Morris. Gotta see her!

So far, this con has been a lot of fun. (Despite being just over a cold and this zit on my nose!) Outta wander now...

Back from the Hukster room...Roger gave me a copy of Future Fucus and I foolishly promised a loc before the end of the con...now I'll have to read the silly thing.

(Almost 1:00) - Just back to get my camera for the Janet E. Morris panel... still haven't eaten...nobody was set up yet in the mall area. Out of ice and no quarters left...

(About 2:00) - No ribs yet...shit. We had some Phillipino stuff... a steamed, pork stuffed bun and some roast pork shishkabob somethangor- other and some Irish ~~Stew~~ Stew. I have some quarters now so I can get some ice...picked up the latest Bozo Bus Tribunes in Rick's room... oh yeah...Mitch is here now. Sarah too. Maybe I should loc the BBT.

Janet Morris is stuck on a plane somewhere and hasn't made it to the con evidently she'll still try to get here. Maybe I'll get ribs for dinner.

(About 4:45) - Sarah is up...we're making sure our controlled substances still work. I've loaned her my tuning fork too. We'll probably get together a few people later to play.

Fred had his guitars ripped off!!! But as of 2 days ago he was almost ready to buy a new one. Maybe we'll call him tonight. I still want to get something to EAT!!! I WANT RIBS DAMMIT!!!!

Lasee...Sarah's reading my con report...I don't know why I publish this stuff... everybody will have read it before it gets in the APA. Now she's putting some artsy-fartsy stuff in my blank spaces. Which I was gonna sorta ask her to do anyway.

Now she's mixed up all my pages....AAAAARRRRGGGGGGG..How can I ever get anything done? How do these people expect me to get a Hugo Ifthey mix up my pages.

(9:30 or so) Done with the Masquerade. A good number of neat costumes including one of the Heroine of Phyllis' book about spiders...er...um... shit...(she'll kill me...)...you know the one I mean. Oh yeah... I finally got some ribs.

Sunday - (About 11:30) - Well...seems I went to bed for a quick nap last night about 11 and didn't wake up 'til now. Wonder if I missed anything good?

It looks like it's gonna rain he said glancing out the eighth floor window. Hope it doesn't blow the boat ride.

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EIGHT



(About 3:00) - Dropped in on the techie panel being taped. Gave my loc to Roger, saw Renee briefly in the Hukster room...not too much going on since they're doing the banquet and those not at it are mostly in bed or out looking for food.

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I The name of the girl who did the Deliver Ormory costume is I
I Ann Chancellor and she got the award for "Most Beautiful" ! I
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(About 11:30) - Back from the boat ride. It was kinda fun, but rather long. Now we'll not take a nap and then go out to the parties for a little while. Maybe I'll even play a little.

Chained to the bench down/up in 807... he's making me 'type'
I was just going to do the fillos... he's even stolen my guitar, & has the cruelty to play a favorite song of mine so that I have to sing while I'm trying to type... fortunately the sound of typing is confusing him! Now I'm making him call Seattle directory assistance (in order to locate Fred Maskell; all these poor folk who don't believe they're loved (I've just been with another...) when they're beautiful and talented... I can forgive all ~~as~~ I drink his whisky! Bill's been ... well, shiyit, Bill, I like you a lot...

(That was by Sarah)

(Why dontcha come back Fred?)

Well...we called Fred (as you probably guessed) and now we'll play some more and then go to bed...no grapes...no Fred...just sleep before we head back to Chicago.

Monday - (About 11:00) - Well, got to bed about 4:30 last night after playing a lot and calling Fred...ghu knows how much they'll charge for the call. It was fun.

* * * * *

Well, it was a pretty good con. sorta on the quiet side, but pretty good. We were going to stay for another day, but we decided to head back home and relax all day Tuesday. If we get back at a reasonable hour tonight maybe we'll stay awake long enough to catch I Claudius.

It turns out that Fred's guitars weren't insured...I guess that means that he'll have to stay where he is a while and work for some money. Too bad. His not coming back makes it a harder decision to go to Anokon or Renee's painting party. I dunno. I would certainly have fun at Anokon, but I'm not really sure I want to go to another con, so far away, so soon. Kazoo is only three hours...

We'll see...

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NINE

YOUNG AND ABROAD

in the Solar System

The zine of a hole bound belter by the designation Michael (on occasion Misha) Sestak, beached at 130 Surf Ct. #103, Houston, TX 77058, (713) 333-4158. Number Three in a series.

As one of the few people in this appa who know how the sort of publication works, I should apologize for the meagerness of my first two mailings. Proper introductions this time. No, I am not the Voyager spacecraft and therefore I am not constrained to wait till next year to send my next contrib. My name is in the colophon (the doodad under the title). I was born both geographically and temporally on the very edge of the Space Age at Edwards Air Force Base on December 31, 1952. As an Air Force brat I've lived in most parts of the country, but never overseas (my one chance to live in Guam was ruined by someone in our family catching the measles). Educationally, what can I say for myself. Well, Renée has already explained what a BS in Bs is, well, I got mine four years before she got hers, yes from the same Moo U. Then, I took off for the wilds of Colorado, there to found the Colorado State University Anti-Martian Society with Gordon Garb (and incidentally acquire a MS in Bioclimatology whatever that may be). Having gotten my degree and not enjoying standing in lines, a job was needed. Letters proved fruitless, but a call to my major professor revealed the presence of a temporary climatology related computer programmer position for Lockheed Electronics in Columbia, Mo. The good points of the job were that while billed as temporary, it could be permanent, and if not permanent, since it was for 6 months I would by then potentially be ready to go back to school, but there was also the possibility I would then be transferred to the LEC group at the Johnson Space Center. As it turned out, I am indeed here in Houston (by the way the name of the Lockheed group here changes in January if anyone cares and we are seceding from LEC to become Lockheed Engineering and Management Services Company (some people have little imagination)). I like the job. I work on developing weather based crop yield forecasting models and LANDSAT based

ceop growth and identification models. I just cannot stand the weather or the average Texan and wish someone would move the Space Center (or if anyone needs one hell of a good scientific programmer...).

Notes on repro. Number 1 was offset and on green paper because I didn't have time to get it done myself so I just gave the original to Renée and she happens to like ~~the~~ green twiltone (anyone else foolish enough to do the same--you have been warned). The Number 2 ish was by xerography because I was even later than with the first. All are hammered out on a forty pound behemoth known as an Olivetti Editor 4C, which propensity for developing "problems" contributed heavily to the lateness and shortness of the previous contributions. I like Alex idea of an all electronic apa. Then I could cease these worries of deadlines and whose zine will be unreadable this time. I plan on buying a computer in early October and with the number of networks giving cheap access time to micro users during off-peak, I think the idea is both workable and desireable.

Mundane trivia over, on to Mailing Comments, though these will be interspersed with general commentary as I see fit.

COVER All right, I'll try to get NASA pictures for covers if you have been reduced to ripping posters off hotel walls for material.

THE But how many times have you used that zine? About the
CHAIR name of the apa; I have no objection to APA-TECH
but...how about APA-RATUS for ~~Tallio/\$/fotter/job~~ the tools of the trade.

SOMETHING And all Bill's other stuff, too. Answers to your comment should already have been noted in intro. I am sorely disappointed with the TI 99/4 all that power and so little user RAM and no disk *sigh*. After taking a course using the TI 990/189 University Board, I really like the power of the 9900 architecture. I will likely try to put together an affordable 990 module computer in early October. And on another subject, Some people are just born lucky, you see I am a hieght, weight and stamina duplicate of the fellow who piloted the Gossamer Condor and Albatross. Anyone want to build me one?

T. TALK Clarify, do you work for DOT (contractee or such) or are you part of DOT. (It is just difficult to imagine a civil servant in fandom.) Your history is not too unusual, for all my travels as a kid and even though I knew of the existence of fandom from early high school, I did not get involved until I went to college. (There is something strange about MSU. It has few active fans at any one time for its size, but those who start there tend to stay in fandom and often become BNFs or writers.)

* Interruption One

The following pieces of information have just recently come to my attention. First, excerpt from a recent NASA publication...

1. Space settlements are no longer being studied by NASA. A workshop study was conducted in 1975 to explore the space settlement concept.
2. Establishing settlements in space would be very costly. Both the hardware required and the technology needed have not been developed. The number and background training of people to occupy a settlement is unknown.
3. There is within NASA no recognizable need for a space settlement project now or in the near future.
4. NASA has no plans at this time to establish a space station on the lunar surface

All emphasis is theirs. Those expecting the government to be the big backer of space industrialization please take note (me, i might just send some money to Truax).

On the other hand, from a JSC newsletter...

Public Services reports that this fiscal year 40% more visitors came to JSC than in 1978. Nearly one and a half million persons walked through the Visitor Center, gazed at the Skylab mockup, and learned about Mission Control Center on scheduled tours.

I've got another article about the crowds that came out to see the Enterprise at its stops in Atlanta, St. Louis, Tulsa, Denver, Salt Lake City and Vandenberg AFB on its flight from Kennedy back to Dryden Flight Center in California, total headcount 750,000.

Entropy reigns supreme. Look how much a few hundred terrorists can affect daily life and national priorities, for the worse, but how many people working how hard does it take to make a positive change?

ENOUGH ON TO MORE IMPORTANT THINGS MORE MCs

SINGULARITY Such a job setup. My best deals come by chance, not the good grace of the company. For instance, my early Friday exits for cons are because my supervisor is an avid SF reader, though not a fan (he sort of condones my obvious insanity). And just recently I am being turned loose on the PFC, an IBM minicomputer system designed to convert LANDSAT digital data to film products--transparencies or prints. Oh, to wangle some copies of the results. Gas in Houston is cheaper than most of the country, little transport cost since it is imported and refined here, but then I don't use the stuff (directly).

YAAITSS What can I say about this zine! Well written, but too short and the author is obviously a fanatic. For those foolhardy enough to want to know more about my title... Among many other things, I at one time read a number of Victorian romances. These novels are most notable for their ~~bold~~ titles in my opinion. One day I hope to rewrite one whose intriguing title is OUT OF THE DEPTHS, A Romance of Reclamation as science fiction.

ALICE Your title is too job related for me to be able to re-type it after 5 PM. One of the reasons I am doing what I am is because I am not teaching. I am good at it (one of the few things I can really say that about), but I could never work with the American school system and it is better than most. Through high school, I frequently ignored the teachers in English and History classes and did the assignments the way they made sense to me, they can have their own screwy interpretations. If you are a good writer and can express yourself well, this usually works. Diehards, however were a major cause of my seldom actually being the straight A student most everyone thought I was (coasting on my part was another problem).

Actually, Young and Abroad hopes to be captured and revived by a passing alien spacecraft after the Saturn encounter next year. Basically I did it because I didn't have time for the detailed technical article on the Voyager and Pioneer/Venus Probe results which I'd planned, but I was in a mood where I had to do something in that area, it was all so incredibly interesting.

GARB IN That's it, plug AmberCon. There are those who re-
GARB OUT member that YuccaCon had two chairbeings. We prefer no blank back sides of pages, too, Gordon.
That was no halucination, that was my life. TI will, you know. Due to the untimely marriage of my brother Sept 15 and attendant costs, I probably won't make MileHighCon. I plan to buy a micro soon, though. Watch out for red dust storms, wet world slimey!

ALEX This title is even worse than Alice's. Look here kid, I got 3 machines at work now that can type that a hell of a lot faster than I can, so why should I try? I'm not in the middle of Houston at all, but about as far south as you can get without getting very wet (not that that hasn't been happening all too much lately). This causes real problems when it comes to getting around without a car (and for cons the airport is 60 miles away).

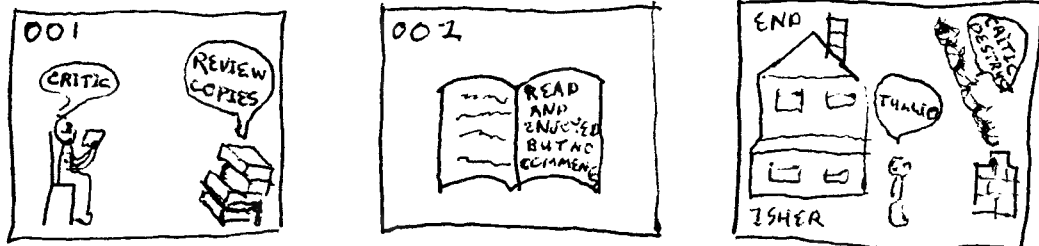
Funny, I never enjoyed projectile weapon recreation either.

You forgot to mention your attempt to get minority funding for Isher by undergoing a change of race.

TALES FROM THE CHARMED SEA But why do the military come out with so many new technical advances first. People are more willing to spend megabucks on them than on developing the technology directly is why. I am not entirely a pacifist, I just would occasionally like a little diversity in the outlook of the human race.

I saw Bucky in Space on commercial TV, but missed the opening credits, etc *sigh*. Never has so little been done for so much using so many used props from a show that was such a bomb anyway. Damn, we'll probably wind up praising "The Empire Strikes Back."

KAZOO AM



MU BETA WHY I want to buy a computer, I will never know. You would think wrestling with their idiosyncracies at work would be enough, but nooooooooooooooooooooo...

INDEFINITE I am fascinated by the idea of learning about SF from
HORIZONS ones parents. But then I wouldn't have had the challenge of educating my parents on the subject (semi-successful) to prepare me for tackling the outside world.

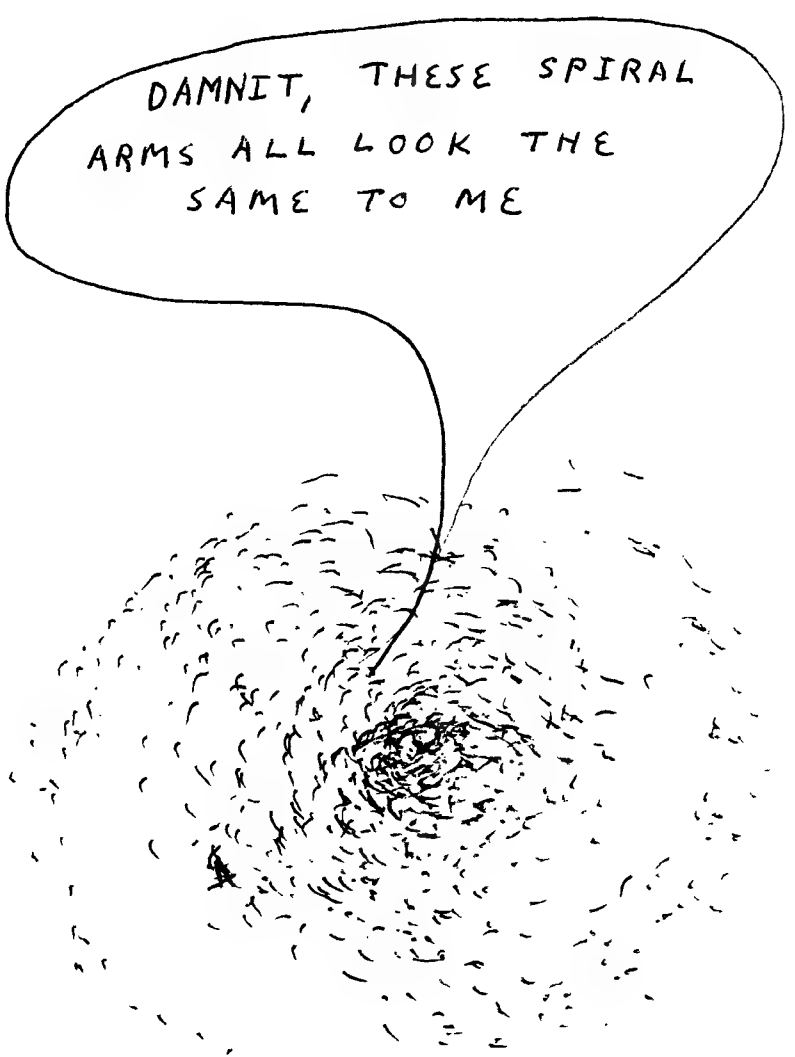
I am afraid I saw the holes in the plot of Alien at my first viewing, but then I've seen enough horror movies to even have anticipated Hitchcock a couple times. So far as I know Alien is the first movie in quite some time to really scare/horrify audiences without doing it purely with blood and gore.

5 NEEDY Two problems I know of with Hart's analysis of
SINGULARITIES habitability zones are the dynamics of solar system formation and the life as we know it syndrome.

There is evidence that stars of a certain size would be likely to have planets at solar system like distances because of the balance of gravitational and electromagnetic forces which occurs during planetary accretion. Also, carbon based life, even, need not utilize the planetary atmosphere in metabolism in exactly the way the demizens of Earth do (a sample of one is not a lot to go on). The martian atmosphere has more CO due to UV photolysis. A critter using this in its energy cycle would not have the same habitability restrictions/requirements of an Earth type (and incidently would cause anomalous results in a Viking type life detector (not necessarily those recorded, though)).

SMITH'S Holes in the edge of the pages, holes in the edge of my
CORONA zine...,

But Renee already has impersonated Old GT in at least one masquerade. The problem may come when she or Tullio decide to quit this rag. One page commet? Actually, I can't wait another 6 years or so for Pioneer 10 to cross the orbit of Pluto and I can be Young and Abroad in the Galaxy!



DAMNIT, THESE SPIRAL
ARMS ALL LOOK THE
SAME TO ME

~~~~~  
WHAT IS THE SOUND OF ONE MESKLINITE CLAPPING?  
(or A Rolling Mesklinite Gathers No Moss)



~~~~~  
Renee Sieber/ 530 W. Walnut St./Kazoo, MI, 49007/ (616) 342-4967
~~~~~

Not much to say. The past two months have been alternately hectic and calm. Hectic in August while we were building enough rayguns to get us through NorthAmeriCon; the plastic for 100 guns arrived 3 weeks before the con. Building model F's literally till the last minute ("Alex, get in the car!") A week of hiatus while we sold guns and endured the elevators. A kiss and a hug for Dave Powell (and a free meal) who served Isher far and above the call of duty (like waking us up in the morning so that we could get to the huckster table in time.) And Tullio getting egoboo from his laser (Fred Pohl, Jack Williamson, and Lester delRey knocking off motor boats while on the cruise.)

In September the calm. Painting the house, seeing Angel off (we'll miss her), painting the house, having Bill and Michelle over to paint the house, going to Bilbo's Birthday Party held by the Tolkien Fellowship (perhaps you've heard of it), Alex getting A Job and painting the house. Guess what we'll be doing in October?

#### MAILING COMMENTS ON APA-TECH #2

SOMETHING ELSE AGAIN/ Bill: Re your comment to (abbrev to et) me: The 'University' (and I use that term loosely sometimes. It may also include departments) is not always something that you are assaulted with once a term/ semester. You're confronted by it every time you hear that it refuses to give up its holdings in South Africa, every time that you attend a class with 300 others, every time that you have to listen to a graduate student who can barely speak English, and every time that you hear about a tuition increase. It's ubiquitous (I could say insidious) and you can never forget that it's there. The problems diminish with smaller universities, but if you attend monster universities (as we have) the travesties are large. The bureaucracies become so huge and complex that they not only forget what they are there for, but they forget that students and faculties exist. I agree with you, one should check out the teachers when you have a choice. One thing to note: most brilliant ph.D's are lousy teachers and sometimes even resent having to teach.//

How I got into computers: In high school I took Basic and did my homework in the 'computer room', which at that time consisted of 6 teletypes (at 110 baud) and an HP 2000C and F. The next year I joined the computer club and learned Fortran. During the spring I took apart the tty's and cleaned and repaired them (do you know how many moving parts there are in one of those? I don't remember but I recall brooding for long hours over the manuals and that school saved \$19/hour by using ~~slav~~ student labour.) By my last year I was vp of the club (actually I was vp only so that I could fool around with the secretary.) and we had 12 tty's, and 3 in each of the 3 junior highs (that's grades 7 to 9 in Michigan), a plotter, 2 Tektronix graphics machines, and a Dec writer (not to mention the Silent 700 that the math teachers had secreted in their office.) To me it all seemed very ordinary. Didn't all schools have such equipment? Actually if it hadn't been for the persistence and nagging for one math teacher to the county (who owned the HP's and a IBM 360), our school would have been no different from any other. How did he justify the expense? By convincing everyone that his students would write programs that were useful to the faculty and the administration. He soon found out (as we subsequently did) that everyone had their pet project that had to be computerized. Soon we were chained to our terminals and doing the oddest things. Football programs. Swimming programs. Wrestling programs. We even computerized the local elections. It wasn't official but at least it was fun (sitting alone at a terminal in your district linked to the other districts only by phone. Talking on the phone instead of plugging it into the modem. Rushing to enter in the latest results.) And a mammoth Special Education program.//

I hope you get your money, Bill.

SINGULARITY ONE/ Steve: It remains to be seen whether you will remain in fandom after you get married. Marriage, as Tullio will tell you, does funny things to people. They have a way of becoming insulated from everything but themselves and the immediate outside world. It's like (as Bill mentioned) trying to catch up with old high school friends after they've spent a year in college. Marriage is not like a summer away at camp when you can pick up where you left off. It's a maturing experience and when couples grow together they sometimes grow apart from others. I hope it doesn't happen to you.//

Re your comment about about cynicism and the American-made car: The GMX cars' motors are manufactured abroad.

YOUNG AND ABROAD IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM/ Misha: Everyone should look up the July issue of Analog. The editorial has a list of bills that are pending and those congressmen who are either supporting or are against these bills. Write them! Write your own congressmen! Remember (in the eyes of the pr men) every letter that is received means that 100 people feel the same way. So your letters will represent 100 people who support the space program.



ALICE/ your repro is vastly superior this time.// Your theory that an author might be just as bewildered by the complex symbolism that professors cook up as the student is reminds me of a tour I took in N. Dakota of Teddy Roosevelt's hunting cabin. We were led through the rooms and the guide explained to us the period furniture, trophies, stuffed bears, gifts from foreign heads of state, etc. It was all very nice, but not too interesting. Then the guide came to the bedroom and lovingly picked up a pair of old leather slippers. "Teddy walked in these slippers." Through the rest of the tour I kept coming back to those slippers. A man becomes so famous that someone in the future preserves his bedroom slippers. I could hear a conversation that Teddy probably had with his wife, "You know, these slippers are so old and banged up. I'm going to have to get a new pair one of these days." Well, I might have had more respect for you if you had had newer slippers. But, no...

GARB IN, GARB OUT/ Gordon: The ditto that comes out of this house is of top quality. Tullio, take a bow. If you have any quarrels, well, you remember what Tesla did to that building. Tullio could just as well do it to your apartment.// Re ct me: you're right that it was a naive first love and that I 'took it for granted'. Perhaps those aren't the right words. Because I felt my love to be so strong I thought that it would be no trouble to keep the relationship going in spite of the distances. But that was only part of it. The summer after Misha left, I reentered fandom (she only impacted on the surface, sir.) To be more precise, Fandom struck me in the face, bowled me over, and left me breathless for the entire summer. I changed a lot in those few months. When I saw Misha again I was not the same person that he had left and some of the things that we had based our relationship on no longer existed. I must admit that since then I have been very afraid of continuing romances over any sort of distance. Not that I don't try, but it's a self-fulfilling prophesy. I think so much that it can't work out that I begin to believe it.

UNRECOGNIZABLE PERSON IN THE BACK ROW/ Alex: I believe the first sf book I read was a Silverberg juvenile. Something about a colony of spacers on the edge of town. There's no FTL travel so people age on their trips. There are these twins and... I don't remember the rest.

TALES FROM THE CHARMED SEA #2/ Keith: Interesting things about the TV version of Buck Rogers: the opening credits were gone. And, apparently television audiences are dumber than movie audiences--someone must think so-- for there was some rather unnecessary exposition in the beginning and during the show. It was also fleshed out a little (scenes of Buck's new apartment and some moody morallizing at the end). And Twikie's "I'm freezing my ball...bearings off!" was censored.

KALAMAZOO BEFORE NOON/ Tullio: is no longer accurate. Alex has  
a job and gets up before all of us. I only  
sleep till noon now (Tullio wakes me up when he leaves). Tullio  
does eat a loaf of bread a day.

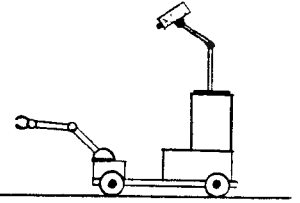
I'm starting to fade away (as this another 11th hour production  
so I'll comment on the rest of the zines in the next ish.  
One more...

SMITH'S CORONA/ Dick: Re ct me: "A Room in the Cellar" is where  
my rabbit lives. It is also the place I go to  
in my mind for introspection.// Sure, one could get rich making  
rayguns. If one could advertise in Analog, Nieman-Markus, and  
Bloomingdales (especially around Xmas), and own a shop on Sunset  
Blvd. in LA, next to the Roxy where rock stars hang out. If we  
get the Model X (with its 3 screw on attachments) into Play-  
boy's Pot-Pourri, we could make some \$\$// Glad you made it into  
issue #2.

Renee

## TRANSPORTER TOPICS

by  
R. E. Smith  
922 Belvoir Dr.  
Frankfort, Ky. 40601



(Slight change of title, there. Be grateful for small favors. I could have called it "Smith's Smarts", or some other alliterative assininity.)

Well, Renee, you wanted controversial subjects, so here goes.

\*\*\*\*\*

Archeologists have been wondering for years, now, why our ancestors seem to have become suddenly interested in astronomy about five or six thousand years ago. Its as if some event in the sky stimulated interest in observing stars and planets. In fact, some students of paleoastronomy believe that before this period, astronomy was an unknown science throughout most of the world.

What could have been responsible for this sudden, almost desperate interest in the sky? To help answer this, let's consider the time period.

This was the era of the biblical flood, an event documented by cultures all over the world. In a description of the world at a period prior to this, mention is made in the Bible of a sea above to match the sea below. Could the writers have been refering to a heavy cloud layer in the upper atmosphere? If this precipitated out it would explain the torrential rains mentioned in most deluge narratives.

Such a cloud barrier would block the sight of the stars and planets, and possibly the moon. It would also make direct sunlight a rarity, and without direct sunlight rainbows do not occur. The cloud layer might also isolate the ozone formed in the upper atmosphere, keeping it from reaching the lower air layers. Since animal studies have shown ozone to be the major culprit in the physical deterioration that accompanies aging, this would be one explanation for the extreme ages reached by some biblical patriarchs. With the cloud layer gone, ozone would reduce the post-deluge lifespan drastically----which is exactly what happened. In some areas the life expectancy hovered around twenty and twenty-five for centuries.

What could have caused the cloud layer to fall? Some ideas on that next time.

\*\*\*\*\*

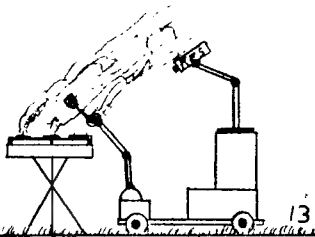
By the way, is it true that you can forecast the severity of the coming winter by the thickness of Tulio's beard?

\*\*\*\*\*

A note for those of you still interested in model rocketry. I am working on some ideas for a stripped-down super-sonic design. If any of you have info on this sort of thing, how about dropping me a line?

\*\*\*\*\*

The little character to the left is called Hobie. That stands for Household Oriented Biologically Interacting Engine. The basic plan is good, but, unfortunately, this particular model was programmed by a Laurel and Hardey fan.



"UH — WHO'S READY  
FOR A MEDIUM CRUMBLY?"

Insistence on strict spelling is a sign of a lack of imagination. If you can read what I write, why complain?

-----

The fan outlook in my area is not good. I have tried to interest several SF readers I know in convention-going, but so far with no luck. The closest I have come is a woman in the office down the hall, who says that she would like to, but can't right now. A sign of my desperation is the fact that I recently loaned my Northamericon program book to my sunday school teacher's gradeschool-age son.

#### LETTUCE PREY

"This is highly irregular," remarked the judge, after reading the trial brief. "I have heard of people leaving money to dogs and cats, but to a plant?"

"Please, your honor!" protested the departed doctor's lawyer. "Livicus

carnivosa is not just a plant. It is a mutant form of lettuce with carnivorous characteristics and a rudimentary nervous system. Dr. Livicus wanted to insure that, in the event of his death, the great work he started would be carried on."

"My point, your honor," countered the attorney for the son of Dr. Livicus, "is that the doctor would not have wanted the project continued had he known how dangerous his creation was."

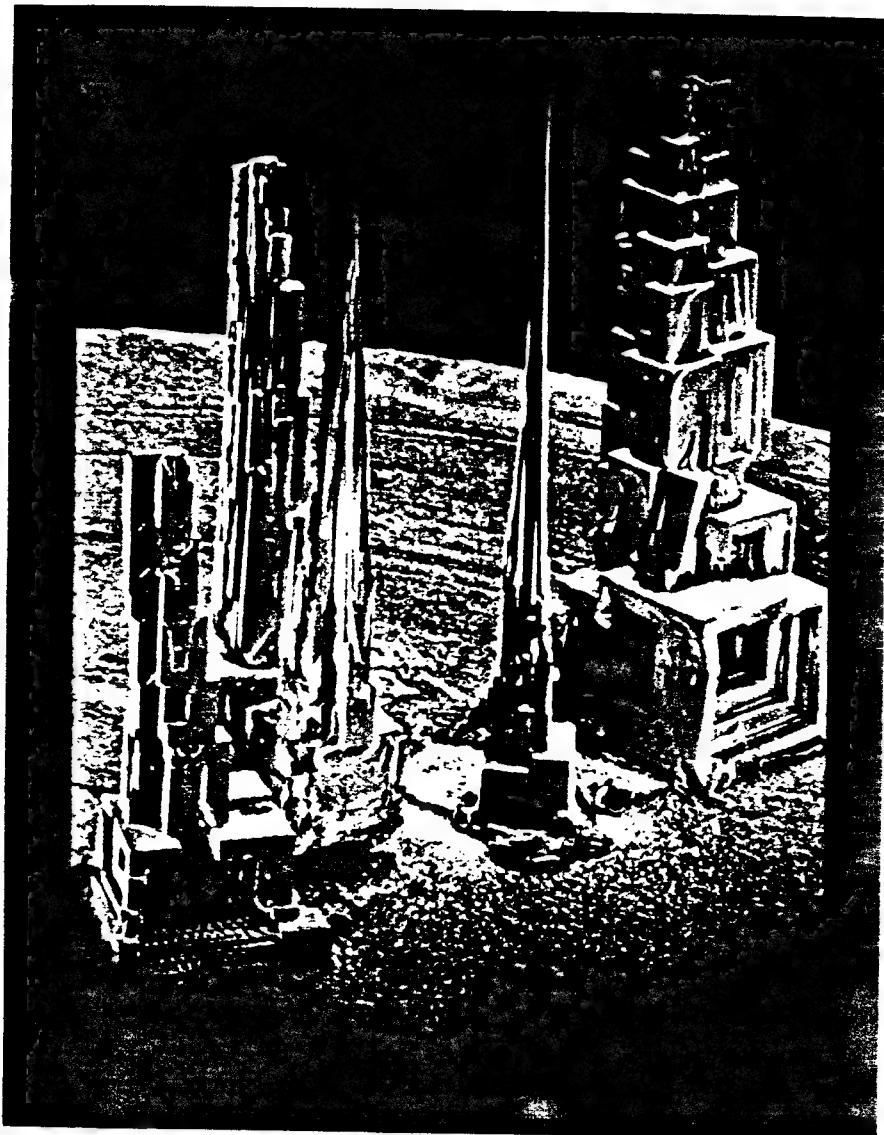
"The fact that he was accidentally devoured has nothing to do with this," countered the first lawyer. "His will is clear and unambiguous."

And so it went, back and forth, for quite a while. Finally, after an hour's recess, the judge ruled in favor of the original will.

"Well, that's the way it goes," sighed the plaintiff's lawyer, as he broke the news to his client. "I guess you could say it all went to his head."

Well, I'm about out of space. Till next time, keep your Mosfets cool.

Rod



Half as old as time, the city stands. On a dead and airless world circling a burned out sun, the lifeless buildings slowly give way to the relentless pull of gravity and the plastic creep of flowing molecules.



# The Quintessential Singularity<sub>2</sub>

29 August 1979  
for APA-TECH 3<sub>10</sub>

BEING A JOURNAL OF COMPLEX, IMAGINARY, AND IRRATIONAL STUDIES  
ISSUED BY THE CENTER FOR SPACED RESEARCH:  
307 E. WHITE ST., #34, CHAMPAIGN, ILL. 61820 (217)-359-9544  
GREGORY RUFFA, PROPRIETOR AND SHORT-ORDER COOK

Ordinarily, I would be preparing an issue of QS about a month hence, but, as I am leaving for Northamericon tomorrow morning with a sizeable and motley band of ChUSFANS, I think I have a chance of writing this all out and getting it copied through the unwitting cooperation of the Astronomy Department in time to turn it over to the proper authorities of APA-TECH in Louisville. One disadvantage of producing this now is that I won't be able to say anything about Saturn, which one of our roving eyes, being "young and abroad in ... etc.,etc.", shall reach this coming weekend. If you see someone buzzing around the hotel, salivating heavily and hollering for a current newspaper, you will have encountered the humble author of this periodical.

\* \* \*

APPLES BY THE DOZEN: Whilst I was working on my Technicolor doodles down in the Education Building today, my thesis advisor stopped by to see how I was doing (about which I shall say a bit below). He related to me a little of his recent visit to Springfield in his capacity as a consultant on the uses of computers in education. At one of the high schools in that city, there are presently, still stacked in their boxes, two dozen (!) 48K APPLE minicomputers, two dozen diskette drives, and two dozen television sets; it seems that they asked the state for about \$130,000 and received it, of which \$35,000 went for these geegaws. The school apparently wants to organize classroom-sized groups around each machine and so decided that 24 ought to be about right...

What compounds the immensity of this gaff (as if you didn't already suspect) is that the folks there have no particular idea of what to do with all this stuff. My advisor pointed out to them that their school now possessed more computing power (counting the diskette drives) than was available in the whole world through the 1950's; their response was merely to look puzzled. I'm sure the company must have freaked when they saw the order; it had to go through the regional distributor in St. Louis. Personally, I'd check the papers regularly; maybe the school will offer a sale...

\* \* \*

My own doodling on the Education Department's APPLE is about to result in one completed videotape of about 20-25 minutes duration. I am producing animated Hertzsprung-Russell diagrams (these graphs plot stellar luminosity versus surface temperature) to illustrate the evolution of stars of various masses in a proportional time scale. A star of a particular mass produces a theoretical track on such a graph as it ages; what I am doing, which I believe is new, is to give a feeling for the time a star spends in its various phases of existence. I am still conducting some research into the behavior of stars in their final stages of life to complete the

animation work. I hope to be able to play them directly onto a videotape recorder by mid-September and thence make them available for use to the Astronomy Department. I myself am "TAing" a course on the universe outside the solar system: this should be ready in plenty of time for when we reach stellar evolution.

I am planning two more videotapes of comparable length, which I hope to complete (for a master's thesis) by the end of December. I will definitely have more to say about them by APA-TECH 100<sub>2</sub>.

\* \* \*

I'm going to take back something I said last time about there not being enough supernovas in the Galaxy. What got me started on this was a discussion I had with Bill Leininger about a book by Clark and Stephenson called Historical Supernovae. These authors attempt to identify from historical records, predominantly Oriental, the remnants of eight supernovas seen in 185, 386, 393, 1006, 1054, 1181, 1572, and 1604 AD. The question arose as to whether we might hope to see another bright supernova explosion in our lifetimes.

I first chose to approach this in a statistical manner. We don't have much in the way of astronomical records before the beginning of the Christian era, so I decided to take the probability of seeing a bright supernova from Earth as  $p = 8/2000 = .004$ . This is a sufficiently low probability to allow the use of a Poisson distribution (this is the low-probability approximation to the binomial distribution: sort of like studying a very unfair coin). The probability of seeing  $n$  supernovas in 2000 years is then:

$$P(n) = e^{-8} \cdot \frac{8^n}{n!}$$

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| so, $P(n=1)$ | = 0.00268   |
| $P(n=2)$     | = 0.01073   |
| $P(n=3)$     | = 0.02863   |
| $P(n=4)$     | = 0.05725   |
| $P(n=5)$     | = 0.09160   |
| $P(n=6)$     | = 0.12214   |
| $P(n=7)$     | = 0.13959   |
| $P(n=8)$     | = 0.13959 . |

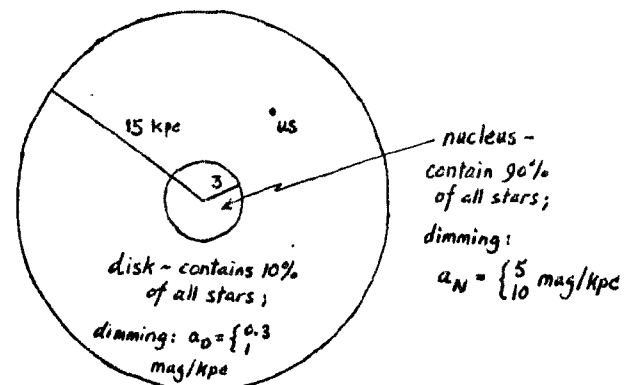
The probability of there being 9 or more supernovas seen in two millenia is then 1 minus the sum of the above terms or about 41%. On the other hand, the annual probability is still around 0.004. Personally, I'd rather wait for a total solar eclipse.

Then I got curious as to just how often we should be able to see a supernova explosion. After all, supernova patrols of other galaxies seems to indicate that such an explosion goes off somewhere in a galaxy once every 10 to 30 years, so how many of those could we see from Earth?

My first calculations involved a galaxy in which stars were distributed uniformly and the dimming of starlight due to interstellar dust was constant. This indicated for most of my choices of parameters that we should see just about every supernova in the Galaxy. Since we see one only about every 250 years, that's about

how often they go off. Plainly that rate is much lower than what we see for other galaxies and hence my somewhat sensational remark in QS1. My apologies.

I decided to try a more realistic model Galaxy with a nuclear region having 90% of all the stars and a higher amount of dimming than the rest of the disk. The galactic nucleus is made to be 3 kiloparsecs (1 parsec (pc) = 3.26 light-years) in radius and the disk is taken to be 15 kpc in radius. The dimming of starlight was chosen as 0.3 or 1 magnitude per kiloparsec in the disk and 5 or 10 magnitudes per kpc in the nucleus.



$r$  is the distance from Earth to the galactic center; here,  $r = 9$  kpc

By graphical integration (yes, with tracing paper and graph paper - such fun!), I determined the proportion of the Galaxy in which supernovas would manifest themselves to Earth as objects of at least magnitude +1.0; this is the brightness of the faintest stars visible on a clear night in, say, downtown Chicago. If a new second-magnitude star were added, maybe the Chinese observers would notice, but most people wouldn't; a new first-magnitude star would be obvious to anybody. Besides, all of the last eight supernovas were at least magnitude -1.0. My assumptions in this stage are that the massive stars which go supernova are distributed uniformly in the Galaxy (not quite true) and that the stars are distributed uniformly in each region (surely not true). The results are below.

I also tried a Monte Carlo approach in which I set off explosions at random in the Galaxy with average intervals of 10, 30, and 100 years. The distribution of stars in each region was taken to be Gaussian (the bell-shaped distribution) centered on the center of the Galaxy in the nucleus and at the edge of the nucleus for the disk. This arrangement isn't really right, either, but it's closer to the truth than the above. For this method, I wish to thank Mr. Bentley for the use of his Mychine, the Education Department for the use of their APPLE, and me for my TI59. The results are also given below for an interval of 10,000 years.

| $r, a_D, a_N \setminus f^{-1}(\text{yr})$ | uniform distribution |     |     | Gaussian distribution |     |     |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----|-----|-----------------------|-----|-----|
|                                           | 100                  | 30  | 10  | 100                   | 30  | 10  |
| 6, 0.3, 5                                 | 300                  | 91  | 30  | 830                   | 300 | 98  |
| 6, 0.3, 10                                | 330                  | 99  | 33  | 1000                  | 400 | 120 |
| 6, 1, 5                                   | 510                  | 150 | 51  | 1700                  | 710 | 190 |
| 6, 1, 10                                  | 620                  | 185 | 62  | 1700                  | 710 | 200 |
| 8, 0.3, 5                                 | 350                  | 100 | 35  | 1000                  | 370 | 105 |
| 8, 0.3, 10                                | 540                  | 160 | 54  | 1000                  | 400 | 120 |
| 8, 1, 5                                   | 870                  | 260 | 87  | 2000                  | 830 | 230 |
| 8, 1, 10                                  | 1200                 | 360 | 120 | 2000                  | 830 | 240 |

| $r, a_D, a_N \setminus f^{-1}(\text{yr})$ | uniform distribution |      |     | Gaussian distribution |      |     |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------|------|-----|-----------------------|------|-----|
|                                           | 100                  | 30   | 10  | 100                   | 30   | 10  |
| 9,0.3,5                                   | 510                  | 150  | 51  | 1000                  | 400  | 115 |
| 9,0.3,10                                  | 610                  | 180  | 61  | 1000                  | 400  | 120 |
| 9,1,5                                     | 1200                 | 360  | 120 | 2500                  | 910  | 280 |
| 9,1,10                                    | 1700                 | 500  | 170 | 2500                  | 910  | 285 |
| 10,0.3,5                                  | 560                  | 170  | 56  | 1000                  | 420  | 120 |
| 10,0.3,10                                 | 770                  | 230  | 77  | 1000                  | 420  | 125 |
| 10,1,5                                    | 5200                 | 1500 | 520 | 5000                  | 1250 | 400 |
| 10,1,10                                   | 5200                 | 1500 | 520 | 5000                  | 1250 | 400 |
| 12,0.3,5                                  | 680                  | 200  | 68  | 1000                  | 420  | 125 |
| 12,0.3,10                                 | 830                  | 250  | 83  | 1000                  | 420  | 130 |
| 12,1,5                                    | 6200                 | 1900 | 620 | --                    | 2500 | 910 |
| 12,1,10                                   | 6200                 | 1900 | 620 | --                    | 2500 | 910 |

The truth lies somewhat closer to the Gaussian distribution than to the uniform one, but these values effectively bracket the range of possibilities. Astronomers generally agree on the distance of Earth from the galactic center as being around 9 kiloparsecs, the dimming in the disk as around 1 magnitude per kiloparsec, and the dimming in the nucleus as around 10 magnitudes per kpc. An average of one supernova somewhere in the Galaxy every 10 years gives us an expectation of seeing a bright supernova every 170 to 285 years. Hey, that even jibes with the observed historical rate! So, I take back what I said last time: there are plenty of supernovas in our Galaxy, even a typical number (you just can't see most of them).

\* \* \*

A singularity of a complex function is a point where the function is undefined (it "blows up"); if a value can be assigned to this point that makes the function "smooth", the point is a removable singularity; if the function can be made smooth by multiplying it by a polynomial, the singularity is a pole (for instance,  $f(z) = (z^2 - 9)/(z - 3)$  blows up for  $z = 3$ , but  $f(z) \times (z - 3)$  is smooth); the power of the polynomial required to smooth things out defines the order of the pole (the power of the above polynomial was 1, so the pole at  $z = 3$  is of order 1); if no polynomial of any finite power can smooth things out, the point in question is an essential singularity (e.g.,  $\exp(1/z)$  has an essential singularity at  $z = 0$ ). Hence, sort of sideways, the name of my publication.

Since I rather suspect that Keith, he of the charming sea, is going to call his zine comments something like "N-th order perturbations", I will sidestep this and refer to mine as "Poles of Order N". First round comments will be "Poles of Order 1"; comments on comments, "Poles of Order 2", etc. If the whole business promises to plunge into infinite levels of exchange, I'd have enough material for a whole zine, since I'd have an "essential singularity" on my hands (and it ain't removable, either). Something like that ...

By the way, I do read every single page in this APA and I have enjoyed just about all of those pages so far, but electronics lies outside the present scope of my expertise, so I must perforce refrain from comment on such matters (better to be thought a fool than to confirm the suspicions of all).

POLES OF ORDER 1 -

Cover: Tennis? Jogging?? Blown-dried hair??! Sounds like National Bourgeois Fandom. Next thing you'll tell me is you drive a station wagon ...

555: So what's wrong with the name "APA-TECH"? I'm tired of cutesy puns, like the Boston Other Club's APALOOSA (which, at last report, was down from 80 pages to 20 and fading fast). I mean, the name says what it is and vice versa. Besides, I haven't been able to come up with a cutesy pun of my own yet ...

How about APA-LIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY? Oh, skip it ...

In regards your request, I can obtain the rest of this year's issues through the kind, though unwitting, assistance of Mr. Bentley. Where later issues should be sent is strongly dependent upon who gives me a job in January (if any).

the other "Singularity": Oops, sorry about stepping on your toes, old fellow. Mr. Bentley tells me you're thinking of changing your title; don't feel you have to on my account. I am alluding to a mathematical concept and you refer to a physical one. Just see to it that yours is never naked -- this is a family zine!

Signed, the Cosmic Censor

In the Solar System: Don't be too upset about the lack of interest in the tenth anniversary. There is evidence that interest in social phenomena follows a 15-year cycle. I personally expect a huge resurgence of interest in space exploration and "utilization" along about the mid-1980's. From the looks of the situation with terrestrial resources, we're going to need it by then.

Ap: I have a resume in to Adler at present. You mind putting in a good word for me? You mind creating an opening in the Directorship for me? I can offer a fairly lucrative contract ...

In answer to your question about Keith's title, consider a distribution of subatomic particles. Such a distribution always has a high-energy "tail".



Charmed: I don't know, Keith, somehow those section headings make me feel sort of gooshy inside. Regarding July 20<sup>th</sup>, see my comment to "Solar System"; personally I still think of that date as my sister's birthday first (after all, she was first).

A.M. Kazoo: Ah, but what is the right to buy free weapons?  
(Such slogans remind me of a graffito I saw back in Boston: "If legality were outlawed, then only outlaws would be ... wait a minute ...".)

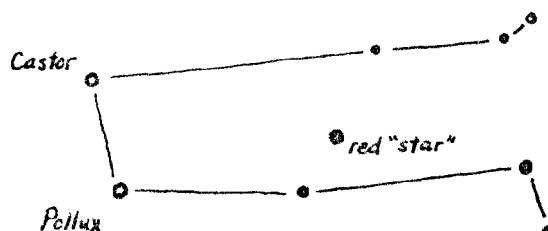
$\mu\beta$ : BENNNTLEEYYYY!!! This wouldn't be the umpteenth revision of "Advance the Carry Spectra", would it? ("Advance the Carry Spectra"?? What does that mean, anyway?)

Indefinite Horizons: Nostromo is the title character of a book by the 19th-century Polish-British author Joseph Conrad (né Teodor Jozef Konrad Korzeniowski). No, I haven't read it, but given this and the fact that "Apocalypse Now" is inspired by his Heart of Darkness, I may just pick up some of his works.

\* \* \*

It's 3:30 AM, do you know where your cerebral cortex is? I'm leaving for Louisville in seven hours. Perhaps I saw you there?

*How late was I up, kiddies? Late enough to see this:*



Gemini and Orion were well up in the eastern sky at 4 AM ; Gemini contained an excess red "star".

For those of you who keep "mundane" hours, Mars will be visible in the early evening sky in the vicinity of Gemini by mid-December.

## Smith's C O R O N A

Dick Smith's apazine for APA-TECH - October 1979

### WHAT THIS IS

This is Dick Smith's apazine for APA-TECH #3, October 1979. It was typeset with Datalogics typesetter PHRED, which runs under DURESS, the Datalogics operating system for the PDP-11. The text you are reading was entered into the system with an EditBee 6000 terminal, which contains a Z80 microprocessor. It was printed on a Diablo HyType II printer. Thanks to **Datalogics, Inc.** for computer time.

Unfortunately for you, dear reader, I am just learning the software used to set this type, and am therefore unable to produce column continuations and other decorative features. You may, therefore, simply read along the columns to follow the various exciting tidbits included herein.

### SMITH ACCEPTS JOB AT DATALOGICS

Last issue I mentioned that I was job hunting. Since that time, I have left Digital, and have accepted a job as a "Systems Engineer" at Datalogics Incorporated. I left DEC on September 17, and started at Datalogics on the 19th. For the record, my new office phone number is (312) 266-4384; I'm there starting late mornings.

Why Datalogics? This is less clear than I'd like it to be. Digital couldn't or wouldn't offer the money I could get elsewhere; the travel was getting to me too. The job with my friend at LLL (per last ish) wasn't even beginning to get funded until October, and then it turns out that salaries are based on academic status. And just maybe I like Chicago. It's possible I guess. Or some Chicagoans? Seems silly, but possible.

My first project at DL has been the development of diagnostics for the Z80 based editing terminal which DL builds from a Beehive terminal and the Z80 cpu. I have written a memory test and some screen and cursor diagnostics. I will then be enhancing the existing screen editor to provide some features which DL has contracted to deliver in the next few months.

As I become familiar with DL's editing terminal, I will be participating in the design

of an improved terminal. This is required because the Beehive terminal DL uses now is going out of production. The future terminal will probably use a high-quality, large crt display, with italics and other character enhancements. This terminal will be used primarily for editing, and the intent is to offload the editing task from the main cpu as much as possible.

The worst part of leaving DEC was giving up my company car. To fill the gap left by this unfortunate occurrence, I have just purchased a 1974 Capri. I'll report next ish how this works out. It's wierd green and has a 4-cylinder engine which may get good mileage. It burns regular gas, so I should be able to afford to go to a few cons after I get it paid for. Hopefully, I'll remember how to drive the standard transmission soon, so the car can get me somewhere.

Since DL is in downtown Chicago, I will probably move closer to public transportation when my lease in Mount Prospect expires in December. This probably means I will be moving **much** closer to Rogers Park. More details next ish when I know them.

### MAKING THE ZINE

Unfortunately, this zine is again being produced in a rush. I still don't know the typeset software well enough to do a perfect job, but I think the quality will be acceptable for this once.

I have trouble writing without a tube to edit at. This ish, at least, I've got text processing software which will do most of what I need for me. DURESS doesn't have a powerful editor like TECO (yet), but it does have a screen oriented editor which lets you make changes to the text as you see it on the screen. I don't think I could work without the backspace key. (Lots more on text editing in a future ish.)

You will have noticed that my last issue was added to the zine late, as it wasn't in the ToC and, indeed, Renee had drummed me out. I managed to sneak my spare copies of Smith's Corona (August) in during distribution at the Lisle berserker. I don't know if Renee ever received the copies which I mailed to her (at great expense). Be aware

that the U. S. Postal Circus is quite slow, especially when you're sending a one pound package of paper.

This is not to imply that Steve Johnson's ancient typewriter shouldn't still be running fine. I think with appropriate amounts of techie labor, there is not reason why this computer or that typewriter shouldn't run quite a bit longer. Mostly, the skills needed for keeping these things running are within our talents already. And if Steve prefers it to other methods, that's his problem.

The last thing I produced at Digital (with regards to fan mail, anyway), was a zine for Valli Hoski, which should also be in this APA-TECH #3. Thanks again, DEC, for cpu & printer time.

### COMING EVENTS

I was at the Holland berserker (long drive with Marcy, but **lots to eat!**), about half of the Lisle berserker, and NASFIC. As usual, there were techies everywhere.

I expect to be at: WindyCon, I-Con, ChambanaCon, and I don't know what else. We'll see how the new car works out before we make too many commitments.

### MAILING COMMENTS

**General:** APA-TECH certainly looks much more promising in ish #2 than #1. I guess techies can actually write after all. I still think that Renee looks nothing like G. T. Buckfast; acts, maybe, but...?

**Cover:** Very nice.

**Angel & Alice & others:** Regards gradeschool etc. experiences: I've always assumed that **no one** that I know had a "good" experience in gradeschool. After all, there had to be some formative experiences to make you all (we all?) into fans.

**Gordon:** We did indeed correspond with regard to Group 103, and I have received the benefits from my membership therein. I don't know yet if I can find a new place which will allow me to continue to benefit from the group. Let's see your parts want list, as well as your "junk I have to trade" list.

**Tullio:** Hope you did well enough at NASFIC to have time to write a little more.

(Party, too?) Comic was nice tho. APA-TECH needs more art.

**Bill Colsher:** I hope that your little business venture works out as expected. Somehow, it seems a little too good to be true, but we'll see.... When are we going to get together and convert my LISP for your people to peddle?

Two zines? I guess one was written for issue #1. Must be nice to have flying lessons paid. I could never quite afford to get that far... maybe now that I'm a middle class programmer, but there's so little time....

**Steve Johnson:** I already picked on your typewriter above. The new job sounds very good. I've driven several of the GM "x-body" cars; they behaved pretty well for modern cars. You'll notice that I bought an old car tho. Guess I'm cheap.

**Keith:** Repro much improved. When are you going to tell us about charm and all those pretty colors? Are you still expecting to be around Chicago alot? If so, why haven't I seen you?

**Micro-Bentley:** I **can't** imagine how all those hobby/business computer outfits can keep going into bankruptcy when there is such a potential market. Could it be that they don't understand the customer's needs? Could it be that the market really doesn't exist? Oh well.

Nice repro. I'm glad I'm not the only one to justify my text. Computers are, after all, for writing with, aren't they?

**Alex:** I suspect that the time for submission of apa-zine material on magnetic media is not yet upon us. **Which formats** of the various media can you handle? There are several kinds of floppies; there are many kinds of audio cassettes.

With regard to on-line apa's: I've been a user of the Chicago CBBS system (dial 312-528-7141 with your terminal if you don't know about computerized bulletin board systems) for quite a while. I have seen Mike Bentley on it too. PLATO notefiles are, of course, much fancier. I'd be happy to participate if someone has computer time to donate.

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For Immediate Release:

[illegible]

Boy, is that strange/nice/unusual/weird....

>>>>>>>>>>>><<<<<<<<<<<<<

More in the continuing love affair of Camera and Computer later....

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Then of course, there are my weekend activities, which usually are some extension of the Thursday night rambunctious ramblings. The following is a con stream report of NASFiC:

exhilarating.....exhausting.....ohimigod what are you doing here? its been so long.....sigh.....what are friends for but..... gentle parties.....sleeping smiles.....giggling grins..... rejuvenating.....relaxing.....isnt't anyone ever going to go skinny-dipping?.....party.....party.....smile.....smile..... boy do you look/are you ever nice.....I didn't know we were such a grand group of people.....party.....sigh.....and when is the next one.....aw don't cry, we'll all be at windycon.....slowing... slowing.....returning to the mundane world.....warm.....warm

As my first national con, NASFiC was all that I thought a con would be, the programming (what I saw) was ok, and the people more than helpful. Enough of general comments.

#### Mailing Comment Department:

Dick Smith: You see, there were a lot of us in there cheering for Chicago.....we know better than to trust California sunshine. Besides, way down deep inside, you know you would miss the excuse of a midwest blizzard.

Alice: Quite a decent intro. APAs aren't formal, or even definitive. Just ramble on and we will appreciate it all. Enjoy Bubie's and Zadie's.

More next time.....

Where does the worm hide in the Apple? Or is it all Paradise?

Any comments or criticisms or heavenly hallelujah choruses of the Apple II would be highly appreciated. I know of an agency that is seriously considering installing Apple IIs in its school districts as THE micro-computer for classroom (CAI and CMI) usage. I already know of the agency's reasons, but I am curious as to the following:

- performance consistency of the Apple
- avallibility and quality of available software
- graphics capability versus the Compucolor II
- support and maintenance avallibility and quality

Any other relevant information would also be highly appreciated (and mebbe read even!!)

Off to hunt for alligators, garlic, and Hell's Angels in Phil's Kitchen.....  
Dr. Gonzo.



# C. R. JONES

P.O. BOX 1099

WAUKEGAN

ILLINOIS

60085

312-

244-3875

The O.D. Lensman Strikes Again!

This thingie is intended as an addition to the APA-tech emitt'd periodically by the McCluhanesque Tribe commonly known as (fanfare) General Technics. Being typed on the 15th of Aghast in the Dungeon in waukegan.

The topic for today: records you should know and....

A lot of us-all techies have been hearing a lot of good music at local cons. Excon featured interludes of reall good stuff on Lee Schneider's monster music machine, and those of us dragging by Wilmot got it from the Stopa's system. However: most of the people I talked to don't know the full titles of the albums or the composers and/or the releasing company and the catalog numbers. By great dilligence (and by annoying some people a lot) I've managed to dig out much of the data. The content of the APA here-in-under your scrutiny is the vitals on the discs and a few totally subjective comments on content and quality. Just to be confusing, I'm throwing in a few off-the-wall-bangers from my own collection.

A word of warning: While digging out the vitals, I happened to hit my favorite music stores and wound<sup>up</sup> augmenting my disc collection by a heap. It's expensive!

Jarre, Jean Michel

EQUINOXE - Polydor - PD-1-6175

OXYGENE - Polydor - PD-1-6112

Syntheticizer symphonic - reall good stuff

Synergy

CORDS - Passport - PB6000

Like Jarre - and on transparent vinyl. Best cut may be 'Phobos and Diemos go to Mars'. This one seems to be designed to be played loud. Can be found in cut-outs.

TANGERINE DREAM - import - JEM

Rubycon - Virgin - V2025, gentle flowing music

Zeit - Virgin - VD2503, faster paced, but still gentle

ENCORE - Virgin - 35014, Live, and has guts, 2 rec. set

Stratosfear - " - 34427, most lively of the set - outstanding  
edgar froese of T.D.

Aqua - Virgin - V2016 percussive elements give this one a more frenetic feeling

I tend to prefer the more vigorous of the albums, so Encore and Stratosfear head my playlist for this group. Aqua is a solo by froese and less interesting, still good.

Jon Anderson (of YES)

Olias of Sunhallow - Atlantic - SD18180

This is one of those strange and wonderous discs that seems like a melding of TOMMY and Tolkein. If you like Roger Dean (or however it's spelled) you'll like the art covering this one. As a matter of fact, the art is so flavorful that the cover is almost unreadable. in cut-offs!

YES (with Jon Anderson & R. Wakeman)

Yessongs - Atlantic - K60045

3 record set - import - Includes Starship Trooper and Excerpts from 'the 6 wives of Henry Mk6' by Wakeman. This one you can disassemble and frame: Dean's art is wonderful. 3, 1x2 foot fold-outs plus covers. (of course, you'll have to put the records somewhere else....)

Perry & Kingsley

The In Sound from Way out - Vanguard - VSD79222

Kaleidoscopic Vibrations - Vanguard - VSD79264

The Amazing New Electronic Pop Sound of Jean Jacques Perrey  
- Vanguard - VSD79286

These are the originators of peice-by-piece, pre-moog electronic music. Some of the stuff is dated a bit, but, if you can find these, they'll show you how the electronic music game got started. Some famous stuff.

Bernard Herrmann

The Fantasy Film World of... - London - SP44207

Day the Earth Stood Still, Journey to the Center of the Earth, Fahrenheit 451, & the 7th Voyage of Sinbad  
Flaming must for film fen - esp. 'Day...'

Apollo 100

Masterpieces - Mega - M51-5005

Odd and interesting things: the version of the Lone Ranger Suite from William Tell Overture is incredible: suggests a square dance for giant Gila Monsters.

Walter/Wendy Carlos

Sonic Seasonings - Columbia - KG31234 2 rec. set

Clockwork Orange - Tempi - KC3k480 (Columbia)

By Request - Tempi - X M 32088 (Columbia)

Seasonings is an electronic interpretation of the seasons and sounds like Early Krell music: the winter cut is chilling, and the electronic wolves have been known to upset some very tough freinds of mine. Orange is the special collection of Carlos' work, not necessarily the stuff that got used: superior to the sound track album. By request ranges from annoying to priceless, esp. Pompous Circumstances and Eleanor Rigby. (yes.)

ISATO TOMITA

Firebird - RCA - ARD-1-1312 (quad)

Snowflakes are Dancing - RCA - ARL1-0488

NOT a complete list of his stuff, just the ones I think highly of. All of his works seem to be adaptations, and these are the best.

Zubin Mehta/John Williams

Star Wars/Close Inckounters suites - London - ZM1001

A considerably condensed version of Star Wars, but of extremely high quality. Also C.E. B oth composed & arranged by Williams and done by the L.A.Philharmonic.

Thomas Dissevelt

Fantasy in Orbit - Philips - PHS 600-189

One of the first S.F. electronic compositions - circa 1960? You'll have to dig for this one, but might have luck at used (shudder) record shops or hucksterers rooms.

Olive Drab Lensman, P3

That last bunch of records runs from in print to collectors items, Fantasy in Orbit being one of the latter, along with the Perry & Kingsley discs. The others may be reachable via Schwanns or a good record shop that's willing to order (most are), or from your favorite (or least disliked) record huckster. Another source is the 'cut-out' bin at a record store or department. 'Cut-outs' (or 'cut offs') are records that never found homes when they were first released (or first escaped) and went back to the record companies. Since they are not ones to loose more than they have to, they pawn them off for a buck (as low as a quarter) to a high of 3 bucks. Olias of Sunhallow is currently available that way as is Sorcerer by Tangerine Dream (MCA-2277) which is a quality item. The Vanguards may still be available, but I have no idea.

ADDITIONAL MADNESSES

Secret Agent meets the Saint - RCA - LSP3467, Pre-prisoner Patrick McGoochan and hot harpsicord (english title music).

There's a Whole Lalo Schifrin Goin' On - DOT-DLP 25852, madness and fine music from that Mission Impossible composer Boris Schifrin. I especially like his musical version of the insurance policy.

The Spy Who Loved Me - United Artists - UA-LA774-H, music by Marvin Hamlisch ('the entertainer') and the most listenable of all the Bond scores. Good stuff.

Urban Spaceman - Sunset - SLS 50350 - If you've never heard of the Bonzo Dog Dirt Band and like Monty Python, you (~~are/are not~~) are missing madness. Import insanity under 'Bonzo Dog Band' - JEM

Silent Running - MCA - DL7-9188 - Peter Schickele (a.k.a. P.D.Q. Bach) and Joan Baez doing some very nice vocals. The straight instrumentals are a bit Pompous.

Forbidden Planet - 'Planet Records' - PR-001 - Louis and BEBE Barton, from Starlog at the moment. Classic electronic musical score from that definitive S.F. flick.

Forbidden Plant - National Marijuana Growers Assoc. - MNGA-0045, Available where you can find it, 'strange' sounds and 'things' on an amber tinted L.P.

WAR of the WORLDS - Jeff Wayne - Columbia - PC2-35290 - with Richard Burton. Musical version of the famous invasion on 2 L.P.'s with some good rock - grove especially on Justin Hayward doin' 'Forever Autumn'. Powerful thing.

Peace - Rotary Connection - Cadet/Concept (Chicago!) - LPS 318 Christmas Caroles. Yup. It says here. Sure. I love their version of 'Silent Night Chant'. From the persons responsible for 'One Tin Soldier'. Some good, some very bitter-sweet.

WORKS - Emerson, Lake, & Palmer - Atlantic - SD2-7000 - 2 records worth the price for 'Fanfare for the Common Man' on side 4.

OMMADAWN - Mike Oldfield - Virgin - PZ 33913 , If you liked Tubular Bells, you'll enjoy this one. Magical. The chant which gives the disc its name is something to use in an S.F. film for high magic.

STEELEYE SPAN

Live at Last! - Chrysalis - CHR 1199 - definitive version of RAG DOLL  
the 3.S. Story--Original Masters - Chrysalis - CH2 1136 - best of, up to and through Below the Salt. More magic, more Old English music and rock. If you like Jarre, try 'fighting for strangers' or 'Come ye O'er Frae France'

Million Mile Reflections - Charlie Daniels - Epic - 35751  
'The Devil Went Down to Georgia' for fiddle lovers.

The rest of my collection runs from Rock to Jazz through Country by way of Koto Music with stops at Classical and Movie Themes. Electric Eclectic, perhaps?

And now, BIODATA (revised)

It's revised, since the complete rundown I just junked ran 2 of these pages and didn't quite get me through my Army Days (Daze).

Activated on Sowain (or All Saints Day or 1 Nov. '46)

Religion, Methodist (kind of) with strong touches of Druid  
(in which I seem to be a second circle priest.)

Schooling: Waukegan through H.S.

4 confusing years at IIT in Chicago (I couldn't convince my folks I really wanted to go to UCLA Film School)  
Graduated '69 from Northern Ill. U. at DeKalb with  
a (lot of) B.S. in engineering and 'things'.  
Drafted July 28 '69, got out July 21 '71.

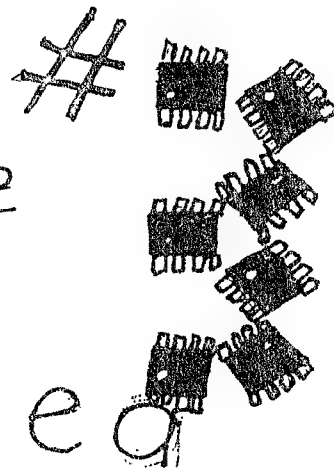
Avocations: reading (since about 3½ while recovering from major surgery), writing (pro), flying light aircraft and jumping out of same (both of which are in abeyance since college due to finances and getting smarter, in that order), building pro-level industrial and film miniatures, photography (still and cine, pro-level), shooting at targets only (marksman), inventing, plotting to take control of the world (mars, of course) and plotting to start my own special effect film studio.

Vocations: Any of the above at any given time, with no notice.

Ultimate word of wisdom: If someone gives a war and invites you to attend: DON'T.

Future plans: completing effects and filming for 'Hyperdrift', a project of D.D.TOG & Clyde Jones which may escape onto your local movie screen or T.V. set in the future. Also, trying to get the contract to do the FX and all props and sets for 'Starcrash II' whose working title is 'Star Riders' by A.E. VanVogt just so the turkey has a chance of being done right. (I have a very good chance at it, if they decide to film in the U.S.) I would also like to film a few dozen of my own stories. And finally find a nice, companionable Fem to share a dungeon with. (not necessarily in that order).

# Tales from the Charmed Sea



Bremstrahlunged from the mind of Keith Thorne, who is  
neither bon-vivant nor world traveller.

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Also found in and around the Muon Lab of Fermilab.

## Mailing Hailings - Level I (Comments on last issue's zines)

Cover - Sign me up for the NMF! If anyone in GT qualifies,  
I do.

R.E.Smith - Many people see escapism as a sign of weakness,  
as just a way to avoid dealing with one's real  
problems. But using literature, SF for example,  
as a form of escape can actually be a valid way  
of coping with a disagreeable existence and even-  
tually extricating oneself from it, as you have  
so aptly demonstrated. Other methods of escape,  
such as athletics, also work, but literature  
saves a mind as well.

Alice and Angel - Windycon 3 was my first con, also. I remem-  
ber meeting Alex in the computer room there.  
(Alex - How about you? Imagine me with a -  
moustache and copper wire-rims)

## Mailing Hailings- Level II (Comments on last issue's comments)

Bill i



Bill - I see I was mistaken. I will have to see it the next time I am in Lisle. I just saw the lunar photomural at the Champaign Byte Shop. Actually I am looking for something less terrestrial. Perhaps a Chesley Bonestell could be blown up.. You guessed correctly. The name of that British group is Hawkwind.

Your experiences with and attitude towards large universities is very much the same as mine, and I went to the same one as Renee (MSU). In my case, this appears due to my experiences in high school. In my school, as in many others, There was only one "in" group, which I was not a part of. I found most high school activities, such as football games, proms, and student government silly and petty. I had a few friends, but we were not very close. College was my long-awaited escape from this parochial existence. I went to an out-of-state school expressly because it put distance between me and home. My reason for choosing a large school was that its very size excluded any overall "in" group and the odds improved that one could find people with similar, but not necessarily the same interests. One must make an effort to find them, however. They don't hide under study carrels exactly, but, unless they are Greeks, neither do they hold rush. These new friends can and should be different from your old friends as college is the place for exposure to other people, other views.

Gordon and Angel - I finally saw ALIEN. See comments this issue

Alex - Thanks for the deposit to my egoboo account. The HP2114 was/is an 8K machine with a core resident BASIC interpreter, and a very primitive one at that. The interpreter left enough room for about 100 statements, depending on array usage.

Angel - My search for the literary history of Nostromo has so far yielded naught. It sounds Latin, and in fact a similar word, "nostrum", is "ours" in Latin.

Dick Smith - How can you say that programmers suffer like physicists and artists? A B.S. in computer science will easily net one a decent paying job in one's field of endeavor. A B.S. in physics is worth about as much as a pile of what BS stands for. With it, one can get a position as a technical salesman or a low-grade technician. You may be able to get a good job

but you must forego physics. To get anywhere requires a doctorate, which means years of work at low or no pay, but it is usually satisfying. Industry is not interested in physicists, unless they can be turned into engineers or administrators. There are very few free-lance physicists.

### Topical topics

Bowing to request, I herein reveal the meaning of the "charmed sea". As you may have surmised, it comes from high energy physics. Current theory holds that all subatomic particles that do not resemble electrons, i.e. protons, neutrons, and pions, are made up of quarks. You can get dozens of these particles because there are different flavors of quarks. It is now believed that there are up, down, strange, charmed, top and bottom quarks, hence the charmed in charmed sea. The sea part is made possible by the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle, which allows a particle and its anti-particle to be created out of nothing, but only if they exist for a short enough time. So the "charmed sea" is the collection of such pairs of charm-anti-charm quarks.

The answer to the trivia question of issue #1: Roger Zelazny's and my hometown is Euclid, Ohio.

I am pleased to announce that my physics experiment, E610 at Fermilab, has the largest number of GTER's associated with it of any such endeavor. Alice Insley just got a job with the U of I High Energy Physics Group doing electronics assembly, I am an experimenter on it, and Bill Higgins provides the beam for us.

### Cine Scene

ALIEN - Unfortunately, I saw it after I knew the plot. Spoiled the whole effect. I liked the film's reaffirmation that spaceships will be grubby and cluttered. The strong female lead should make all the feminists happy. It is an excellent horror film, except that it suffers from the current practice of overly graphic horror. The human imagination in each of us is so much more effective than that dreamed up by any one of us. The behavior of the crew was very reminiscent of Dan O'Bannon's previous film DARK STAR.

LIFE OF BRIAN - Python humor at its best. I can't see what all the brouhaha is that the religious types are creating, the Jews, Catholics and Protestants all terming it blasphemous.

The movie appeared more to be against the way people twist the words of a messian to suit their concepts and beliefs. Some groups are sensitive to anyone making fun in any way of their religion. Getting back to the movie, a few of the routines dragged on much too long, the Pontius Pilate Wodewic sketch in particular. Can you spot George Harrison?

SCHMUCK ROGERS (TV) - I forced myself to sit through the two hour episode entitled 'Planet of the Slave Girls'. Expecting some Gor-y scenes, I tuned in to find something totally different. Yes, there was a planet and slave girls, but also slave boys, men and women. It was more polished than the movie but shows no promise whatsoever. The actual selling method of this series was that it didn't have 'all those serious things that BSG had'. I am not kidding, this is how the producers hyped it to the network. Excuse me as I reach for the Alka-Seltzer.

Pers peruse

This is another rush-job special. The rest of Chusfa House has already gone to Windycon but I'm stuck here with the dishes, my dirty laundry, and recalcitrant mimeo machine. I may have to Xerox the first page to get the heading to come out. Adept with a stylus I'm not. Staying up all night the day before a convention will probably prove suicidal. My work currently involves such interesting things as sanding and cleaning aluminum and G-10 (a glass epoxy), epoxying, and operating a real Rube Goldberg contraption called The Winding Machine. Building apparatus is just so glorious?! My experiment is now slated to start in mid-January so I get to spend the winter using a very poorly heated Muon Lab. O Bliss!

- - - FLASH - - -

WhatCon II (May 23-25, 1980) has snagged Larry Niven as GOH, so get those bandersnatch jokes ready.

- - - FLASH - - -

P.S. Will someone PLEASE print the words to Benson, Arizona?

### The One Shot

Once upon a time, there were five techies sitting in room 713 of the Arlington Park Hilton. It was a clear and chilly night, which was a disappointment. Renee wanted storms, but all she got was bad jokes and cheap booze. But there was no bad sex in the hotel, because the all night restaurant had not yet been completed.

Behind closed doors, there were strange sounds. But where was the ray gun??? The huckster room, which had closed at 7:30, was empty. Dick was sitting on the phone, but the phone was not blowing bubbles or glowing faintly red. Bill suggested, "Wanna fuck?", but he had no ray gun to insert in any orifice. As it turned out, the ray gun was in Valli's hand...

And Bill was lying on the floor, with a mighty roar, said "I need some..." and was handed the ray gun with a shrug.

It was the shrug that did it... Dick's Ray Gun glowed bright green as his finger caressed the trigger... Renee curled up on the bed saying "That was Real Strange!"

"What's strange about that?" asked Renee. "They were all tested."

The anonymous typist groaned in despair, while Renee rambled on, describing strange plastic shapes of unknown origin or function. The conversation turned to matters of transcendental philosophy and illicit sex, while the pages went stale with neglect. Strawberries and scotch were discussed, while beetles swarmed through fatigued minds. Creative machines were the goal, if not the result. Were the machines reproductive? No one knew.

And still more of the same old crap... but after all, it was only a one shot. And Tullio was eating pizza. We hope.

Notwithstanding the above, there was no sex. For these, were, after all, techies. And we all know, there is no sex for true techies. Not unless she blinks.

Keith then stumbled in with zinc in hand, was dragged, accompanied with threats of comic incest, to the vile typing device, being ordered to "Type or be type-set!" Bill then started in with "The Motie Engineers", but quickly degenerated to a state of Stan Long.

There was a blinding flash.

Bill was playing the Ray gun. Dick caressed the guitar. Renee was lost in transcendental otherwhereness. Tullio was the pizza. Keith crawled up Valli's leg with a typewriter between his teeth. It still wasn't storming. And there was still no sex. They were all techies.

Renee caressed the typewriter. Bill was the transcendental otherwhereness. Tullio played the typewriter. Keith, well, Keith could be the pizza. Dick crawled up Valli's sleeve with a ray gun between his teeth. It still wasn't storming. There still was no sex. They were all techies.